



Special Needs

Early Childhood Virtual Resource Fair

Name of Resource Program and/or Group:

Mississippi Department of Education
Early Childhood Special Education



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child

Contact Information:

Person: Candice Taylor

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Services Provided to Early Childhood

Each school district in Mississippi is responsible for finding and evaluating children, beginning at age 3, who may qualify for special education services. The Mississippi Department of Education Offices of Special Education and Early Childhood work together to ensure that appropriate services are provided to eligible children. Training and technical assistance are provided to general education and special education teachers to support them in bringing services to students in a variety of settings that are developmentally appropriate, inclusive, and meet the individual needs of children. Trainings provided by MDE Office of Early Childhood, including those conducted by Early Childhood Special Education staff, are open to teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators in public schools, Head Start programs, and childcare centers. While trainings are traditionally provided in person, they are currently being provided virtually and can be found on MDE's Professional Development site at www.mdek12.org/OSE/training. Be sure to check the site often, as new trainings continue to be added.

Is there a cost for your services or program?

Yes No

Website Link: www.mdek12.org/ose/ec (Early Childhood Special Education)

Other links for your services: www.mdek12.org/OSE/training (Professional Development); www.mdek12.org/ec (Office of Early Childhood); www.mdek12.org/OSE/SES (Special Education Director contact info)

Early Childhood Virtual Resource Fair

Name of Resource Program and/or Group:

Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center



Contact Information:

Person: MECIC

Phone: 601-266-4745

E-Mail: Chandra.Harper@usm.edu

Services Provided to Early Childhood

Supported by the Mississippi Department of Human Services, MECIC ensures young children with disabilities have access to the learning environment, participation in all learning activities, and appropriate support for children, teachers, and families.

Services Include:

- * Quality Training
- * Expanded Training
- * Preschool Special Needs Credential
- * Infant and Toddler Special Needs Credential
- * In-Home Care Special Needs Certificate
- * Family Navigation and Developmental Screening
- * Technical Assistance

Is there a cost for your services or program?

Yes No

Website Link: <https://mecic-usm.org/>

Other links for your services:

Early Childhood Virtual Resource Fair



MISSISSIPPI
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Name of Resource Program and/or Group:

Mississippi First Steps Early Intervention Program

Contact Information:

Person: Stacy Callender

Phone: 601-576-7427

E-Mail: Stacy.Callender@msdh.ms.gov

Services Provided to Early Childhood

Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, provisions are made to provide early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities or who have conditions that are likely to lead to developmental delays. In Mississippi, the Part C program is known as First Steps.

The goals of early intervention are to:

- * Identify and connect all infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families with early intervention services and supports;
- * Enhance children's development by helping families and caregivers learn strategies and skills to meet their children's needs; and
- * Reduce the later need for/expense of special education and institutionalization by maximizing the independent living of individuals with disabilities

Children who are eligible are between the ages of birth to 45 days before the child's third birthday. The must show significant delays in one or more of the five areas of development, including physical, adaptive, cognitive, communication, and social-emotional, have a diagnosed condition likely to lead to a developmental delay without intervention, or have a clinician provide a justification for early intervention services.

Families who have a qualifying child are connected with professionals with specialized training in working with young children and families on development, including special instructors, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. Most often, they will work with families and caregivers in the child's natural environments, including early care and education centers, to help them learn skills to work with their child.

Anyone with information on a child can make a referral! Often early care and education providers are the first people to notice that a child has delays in development, so you are a valuable partner in helping us identify infants and toddlers and linking them to needed services.

Is there a cost for your services or program?

Yes

No

Website Link: http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/41,0,74.html

Other links for your services: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/2056.pdf (referral form)

Early Childhood Virtual Resource Fair

Name of Resource Program and/or Group:

REACH MS



Contact Information:

Person: Brittany Herrington

Phone: 6012664693

E-Mail: brittany.herrington@usm.edu

Services Provided to Early Childhood

REACH MS has multiple areas of focus, with early childhood positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) being one of those. We use the Pyramid Model to implement this area of focus which includes resources and supports on classroom management, behavior, social-emotional teaching, meaningful engagement, and the use of developmentally appropriate early childhood practices.

Some of the services we provide are:

- regional face-to-face and online training
- monthly hour long Early Childhood Community of Practice (EC CoP) online meetings
- contact hours for our trainings and EC CoP meetings
- monthly hour long online meetings for families of pre-k and kindergarten children (coming September 2020)
- coaching supports to programs and schools in our EC cohort
- limited coaching supports for programs and schools not in our EC cohort (i.e., assistance via email, phone calls, and virtual meetings)

Is there a cost for your services or program?

Yes No

Website Link: <https://reachms.org/>

Other links for your services:

Early Childhood Virtual Resource Fair



MISSISSIPPI
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Name of Resource Program and/or Group:

Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

Contact Information:

Person: Stacy Callender

Phone: 601-576-7427

E-Mail: Stacy.Callender@msdh.ms.gov

Services Provided to Early Childhood

Hearing Loss is one of the most common birth defects, with approximately 3 of every 1000 babies born identified with some degree of hearing loss at birth. To ensure they are identified and receive intervention as early as possible, each state has established an Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, commonly called EHDI (pronounced like Eddie).

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program in Mississippi tracks all babies born in the state to ensure they receive hearing screenings by one month of age. EHDI-MS also tracks the children who do not pass hearing screening, to ensure they receive a diagnostic exam by an audiologist and confirmation of their hearing status by three months of age. If the diagnostic exam reveals they have hearing loss, EHDI-MS refers them to the Mississippi First Steps EIP for early intervention services by six months of age.

These timelines are known as the EHDI 1-3-6 goals!

As important as it is to identify children who are born with hearing loss, it is also important to identify those children who develop hearing loss after birth. An additional 3 in 1000 children will have late onset hearing loss by the time they reach school age. So the EHDI-MS has a new initiative to help identify children with late onset hearing loss: the Early Childhood Hearing Outreach (ECHO) Initiative.

The EHDI-MS is looking for early care and education providers to partner on conducting periodic hearing screening for infants and toddlers up to three years of age. As part of this project, early care and education programs will complete an agreement with the EHDI-MS and receive access to hearing screening devices, training to appropriately use these devices, and report the hearing screening results back to the EHDI-MS program to ensure those who do not pass will receive follow-up evaluations.

To get more information about this opportunity email: EHDI@msdh.ms.gov.

Is there a cost for your services or program?

Yes

No

Website Link: Learn more about EHDI-MS at msdh.ms.gov/ehdi.

Other links for your services: <http://www.infanthearing.org/earlychildhood/index.html>